Statement-II

Steps taken by Government to ensure early completion of the projects

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs).

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with the Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has also been signed with M/s IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in the existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payments Certificate (IPC) amount.

Construction work on NHs in NER

2573. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.:

(a) the names of the roads in different States of the North-Eastern Region where the Central Government are carrying on construction works, State-wise;

(b) whether there are more names of roads in the region as proposed by the, State Governments; and

(c) the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Construction and maintenance works are going on all National Highways in North-Eastern Region. State-wise details are as under:

Sl. No	State	National Highway
1	Arunachal Pradesh	52, 52A, 153
2	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153, 154
3	Manipur	39, 53, 150 and 155
4	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51, 62
5	Mizoram	44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150, 154
6	Nagaland	36, 39, 61, 150, 155
7	Sikkim	31A
8	Tripura	44, 44A

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Intermediate ring road around Bangalore

2574. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has agreed to implement the 250 km Intermediate Ring Road around Bangalore Metropolitan Region at a cost of Rs.2,580 crore to ease traffic congestion in Greater Bangalore;

(b) if so, by when a detailed project report would be prepared;

(c) by when the work would commence; and

(d) the name of the implementing and executing agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) The National Highways Authority of India has commissioned a feasibility study for the Ring Road around Bangalore city which is expected to be submitted in January, 2008. Based on the outcome of the study, the said ring Road project would be considered under National Highway Development Projects Phase-VII. State Government could also cosider the feasibility of implementing the project under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme.